

International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development, IVY 2026

## Roadmap for IVY 2026 implementation at the country level

### Key Stakeholders - IVY 2026

The General Assembly,  
“invites all **Member States**, organizations of the **United Nations system**, **other international and regional organizations** and **other relevant stakeholders**, including **civil society**, the **private sector** and **academia**, to *observe* the International Year, as appropriate, in order to promote the importance of volunteers for sustainable development”

[UN General Assembly Resolution A/78/127](#)

*There should be national committees or other mechanisms for preparing for, conducting, and following up on the International Year at the national level as per annex to [ECOSOC resolution 1980/67](#)*



**WANTED:** national-level stakeholders with expertise in volunteering IN COUNTRY and abroad

As per the Guidelines for International Years (annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67), there should be ordinarily national committees or other mechanisms for preparing for, conducting, and following up the international year at the national level. Therefore, Member States are invited to establish a National Committee (or a similar mechanism) as the primary coordination body for the International Volunteer Year (IVY) 2026 at the country level.

### Step 1 - Selecting a National Focal Point

International Years are customarily celebrated at the national level, steered by a National Committee or equivalent. To kick off the preparations for IVY, Member States are therefore encouraged to assign a focal point at the national level to work on establishing such Committee, this could possibly be a Ministry or another Government authority working on volunteers, volunteerism and volunteering in the country.

### Step 2 - Establishing a National Committee

The formation and active participation of a strong and diverse National Committee is central to the success of the Year and its establishment presents a first task for the IVY focal point at the national level. The composition of the National Committee varies from country to country. To build a strong and effective National Committee, key success factors include:

- Engaging and including a broad range of country-level actors, including representatives from national governments, civil society, volunteer-involving organizations, academia, media and United Nations system organizations within the country.

- Reflecting the wide national constituency for volunteerism by recognizing both formal and informal volunteers, including grassroots organizations and marginalized communities.
- Ensuring membership includes individuals from diverse backgrounds in terms of gender identity and expression, race, ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion and lived experiences.

### Step 3 - Planning national-level activities for IVY 2026

The aim of the National Committee is to coordinate activities and initiatives for the preparation, organization and follow-up for IVY 2026 at the national level. The National Committee is encouraged to implement a diverse set of activities that may include:

- **Promotional activities**, e.g., prepare a national action plan and agenda; host meetings, conferences, events on volunteerism or advocate for integration in existing campaigns; engage with media for awareness raising; establish a website; support the setting up of knowledge and information platforms to develop and promote new forms of volunteering; announce policy and programme intentions on specific volunteering issues; translate key documents presented on the IVY 2026 Knowledge Portal into national languages and make them available on a national website established for the Year.
- **Programmatic activities**, e.g., establish a national volunteering programme; strengthen existing networks, including at the regional level; encourage the integration of volunteerism into national development planning and strategies; introduce policies that remove all inequalities and risks in volunteering; develop TV programmes, radio shows and articles related to volunteering; mobilize funds for effective volunteering programmes at country and regional levels, including through public-private partnerships.
- **Evaluative activities**, e.g., recognize and measure the contribution of formal and informal volunteers and volunteerism in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; review the situation of volunteers and identify specific issues and problems; identify and evaluate relevant governmental programmes in relation to volunteer issues; establish research centers or work with existing research centers to generate research and data on volunteering; prepare a national evaluation report when IVY 2026 is over to showcase your activities and identify lessons learned.

National Committees should raise financial support within their own countries to implement their activities on a national scale.

### Maintain communication with the IVY Secretariat

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has established a global IVY Secretariat to facilitate implementation at the international level. To ensure a well-coordinated and effective approach for IVY 2026, National Committees, through the respective national-level focal points, should join the focal point network facilitated by the IVY Secretariat. Furthermore, National Committees are strongly encouraged to register their activities and events on the [IVY 2026 Knowledge Portal](#). National initiatives and activities will strongly contribute to the success of IVY 2026 and those listed on the Knowledge Portal cannot only serve as models for other countries and international activities but will also inform official reports on the International Year.